


2015
November

Going Dutch


In
this
issue

Fall Kick Off
The Loo Down
Random Bits of Tokyo
AWC Archives in Exhibition

American Women's Club of The Hague



Yin Yoga experience by Aveda The Hague



Recharge your spirit, We'll show you how
Starting introduction lessons 6 October, 3 for 30,00 euro

Location:
Denneweg 56, 2514 CH The Hague
Tel. 070 - 345 8442
www.avedath Hague.nl

*With a listening and caring team
we strive to be your daymaker!*

Going Dutch

November 2015



6, 26

Lots of familiar faces as well as several new ones as we "Kicked Off" the new Club year



40

Mary Adams gives us "The Loo Down" on the Sisi Exhibition at Palace Het Loo



46

Melissa White ponders "Random Bits" as she shares more about her recent stay in Tokyo

The Magazine of the American Women's Club of The Hague

- 5 Officers and Chairwomen
- 6 Fall Kick Off
- 8 Message from the President
- 9 November General Meeting
- 10 Letter from the Editor
- 12 Newcomer Activities
- 14 Ongoing Activities
- 18 One-of-a-Kind Activities
- 21 Tours
- 22 AWC Holiday Bazaar
- 24 Philanthropy Projects
- 25 Bakers Wanted
- 26 More Fall Kick Off
- 28 Calendar
- 31 Thanksgiving Day Service
- 32 The Dutch Daily
- 34 Announcements
- 38 FAWCO Corner
- 40 The Loo Down
- 44 Expat Archive Exhibition
- 45 AWC and the Arts
- 46 Random Bits of Tokyo
- 50 Royal Netherlands
Marechaussee
- 52 Classifieds
- 53 Index of Advertisers
- 53 Rates
- 54 Quiz Night



AWC Clubhouse

Johan van Oldenbarneveltlaan 43
2582 NJ Den Haag
Tel: 070 350 6007
info@awcthehague.org
www.awcthehague.org

Going Dutch Magazine
goingdutchmag@gmail.com

Clubhouse Hours

Tuesday and Thursday

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday Closed

Editor
Melissa White

Design and Layout
Teresa Mahoney

Cover Photo
Langstraat in Wassenaar by Veronica White

Photography
Greetje Engelsman, Melissa White,
Wikimedia Commons

Advertising
Open

Proofreaders
Ellen Bolick, Celeste Brown, Jane Gulde,
Diane Schaap, Debbie van Hees

Contributors
Mary Adams, Jane Choy, Mallery Clarke,
Greetje Engelsman, Roberta Enschede,
Jan Essad, Becky Failor, Eileen Harloff,
Sue Merrick, Seanette Meserole, Rebecca
Niles-Pourier, Georgia Regnault

Printer
www.dwcprint.nl

Dues (Effective 2015-2016)
€ 110 per year (€ 66 after January 1)
€ 90 business, professional
€ 55 valid US military id
€ 35 student
Add € 15 new member registration fee

AWC Bank Account Number
ABN-AMRO
43.14.21.757
IBAN: NL42ABNA0431421757
KvK Den Haag
40409274

Deadlines: Submissions are due no later than the last Monday of the month preceding the publication month. For example, for the January/February issue, submissions are due before Monday, November 23.

Please Note: Articles submitted to *Going Dutch* will be published subject to space limitations and editorial approval. All rights reserved; reprints only by written permission of the Editor. Please email to: goingdutchmag@gmail.com

Legal Notice: Articles in *Going Dutch* express the views and opinions of their authors alone, and not necessarily those of the AWC of The Hague, its Members or this publication.

2015-2016 AWC Officers

President Becky Failor
president@awcthehague.org

Vice President Sue Merrick
vicepresident@awcthehague.org

Treasurer Jan de Vries
treasurer@awcthehague.org

Secretary Sunita Menon
secretary@awcthehague.org

**Clubhouse and Community
Development Officer** Karla Kahn
community@awcthehague.org

Clubhouse Administration Officer Open
clubadministrator@awcthehague.org

Communications Officer Rebecca Fry
communications@awcthehague.org

Front Office

Siska Datema -Kool
Becky Failor
Rachel Kuppens
Sue Merrick
Pamela Schellekens
Melanie Stringfellow

Committee Chairs

Activities Mallery Clarke
Assistant Treasurer Rebecca Wood
At Home in Holland Becky Failor
Board Advisor Jessie Rodell
Caring Committee Naomi Keip
Community Service Coordinator
Pamela Pruijs
FAWCO Elizabeth Kennedy
Heart Pillow Eileen Baker
Holiday Bazaar Ginny Mees, Barbara
Bremer
Library Laurie Martecchini
Kid's Club Open
Membership Coordinator Rebecca
Niles-Pourier
Newcomer Activities Greetje Engelsman
Parliamentarian Georgia Regnault
Programs Mary Brotherton, Roberta
Enschede
Public Relations Loren Mealey
Tennis Molly Boed
The Arts Jane Choy
Tours Jan Essad, Seanette Meserole
Volunteer Coordinator Laurie
Martecchini
Webmaster Julie Otten
Website Assistant Open
Women with Dutch Partners Open

AWC Purpose Statement

The AWC of The Hague is an association formed to provide social and educational activities for American women living in the Netherlands and to promote amicable relations among people of all nations as well as acquiring funds for general public interest. The association does not endeavor to make a profit.



Fall Kick Off



Message from the President

by Becky Failor

November is the month of Thanksgiving and *giving thanks*. Moving to the Netherlands has reinforced for me the importance of this “oh so American” holiday and of *being grateful*, of *giving thanks*.

After moving here in late August 2010, I had hit the “three-month blues” when my first November came around here in Holland. I started to feel even more blue when I realized that my husband would be working on “The Day,” I had no idea where could I buy a turkey and the traditional ingredients (even though in the US we used to travel on that weekend and go out for our turkey dinner), and I had not made the kind of friends yet who would invite me over for a holiday. Not only was the sun coming up later and later and going down earlier and earlier, but it was getting cold and windy. Yucky, yuck, yuck. Woe is me!

Then the November events at the AWC embraced me. I visited the American Pilgrim Museum with the Club and learned of the rich historical connection between Leiden and the Pilgrims who landed on Plymouth Rock in 1620. I was grateful that the 17th century Dutch welcomed the Puritan “expats.” I attended the Thanksgiving Potluck at the Club where I was grateful to learn tips and tricks for cooking an American Thanksgiving dinner *nederlandse stijl* (Dutch-style). Along with other AWC Members, I attended my first Thanksgiving Day Service at the Pieterskerk in Leiden. The tears I shed during that service were ones of *gratitude* because I

knew in my heart I was not alone. I had all these wonderful experiences of my new Dutch life for which to be *thankful*. I was *grateful* for the American Women’s Club of The Hague.



I encourage you to embrace all the AWC has to offer to you this November, especially attending our Thanksgiving Potluck with turkey provided by the AWC (see the following page) and the Thanksgiving Day Service in Leiden (see pages 20 and 31 for details). I encourage you to embrace the wonderful feeling of finding something each day for which to be *grateful*. Maybe one or two of those things will be someone or something associated with our Club.



I am *grateful* for all the effort of **Roberta Enschede, Tove McGrew, Jessie Rodell** and many others to make the Thanksgiving Day Service such a marvelous event. They do this as one of the events sponsored by Overseas Americans Remember.

I am *grateful* for the members of the Board who work tirelessly on the “business” of the AWC so Members can enjoy our Club experience. When you see **Sue Merrick, Jan de Vries, Sunita Menon, Karla Kahn** or **Rebecca Fry**, perhaps you will show your *appreciation* with a “thank you.”

I am *grateful* for this and every issue of *Going Dutch* magazine. I love getting it in the mail. It always makes me smile. I love the articles, pictures, and the calendar right there in the middle. *Thank you to Melissa White and Teresa Mahoney* who work tirelessly to produce this fabulous and beautiful magazine. I *appreciate* your patience and talent. I am also *grateful* to all the contributors, proofreaders and generous advertisers. If you agree, please send a note of *thanks* >>51

Annual General Meeting

Our November meeting will be our Annual General Meeting when we will review Club financials and general business.

- Reports will be given on the activities and finances of the Club from the past year.
- **Jan de Vries**, our Treasurer, will present the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 Club Year. Beginning November 5, copies of these documents will be available in the Front Office for your review.
- Nominations for the Audit Committee will be presented for your approval.

We are thrilled to announce that due to the overwhelming vote on October 8, ALL Members will be able to vote at this important meeting. If you are unable to attend, please submit a proxy ballot; if you are in need of a proxy ballot, please request one from the Front Office.

November is also when the Club traditionally celebrates Thanksgiving with a potluck

luncheon. After the conclusion of the Club business in the morning, we invite everyone to join us for this traditional American meal, featuring a roasted turkey (provided by the AWC) and all the trimmings. Please **RSVP by Thursday, November 5** on

GroupSpaces.com

and mention in the comments which dish you will bring. Please note: we request that your dish serve around six to eight people.

Thursday, November 12

Coffee 10 a.m.

Morning Meeting: 10:30 a.m.

Potluck: Noon

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/990025



Ramblings from the Editor

by Melissa White

November 2015 is a month full of milestones.

As of the 22nd of this month, my family will have lived in the Netherlands for ten years. This is the longest that my husband and I have ever lived in one area during our 23 years together. Our youngest daughter has now spent two-thirds of her life living outside of America. After spending more than half her life in Europe, our eldest chose to go to university in the UK rather than in the US; she proudly identifies herself as a third-culture kid. When we moved here in November 2005, we thought we'd only be staying for three to six years. I never would have predicted that we'd still be here a decade later with no plans to return to the US anytime soon.

My path has not been determined. I shall have more experiences and pass many more milestones. ~ Agnetha Faltskog

What a great ten years they have been! Our daughters have grown from little girls into young adults. I have gone from being an occasional volunteer at the AWC to the editor of this beautiful magazine. I have also embraced my love of writing and photography by keeping a blog of our lives. My husband James has expanded his horizons by taking a Renewable Energy Executive Management Course in Switzerland.

We love our adopted country. The longer I live here, the more respect I have for the Dutch. I love their pragmatism and honesty. They are great innovators (see page 32). Their artistry transcends the centuries (see page 45).

It's impossible to reflect on our years here without thinking about the incredible travel opportunities we've had. James and I went to a Hindu wedding in India, worked on a still unfinished novel along the shores of a river in Mostar, Serbia, and renewed our vows for our 20th anniversary on the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia. I've also driven a dog sled

in Lapland, cycled across southern Sweden, and lived temporarily in Tokyo (see page 46 for some of my impressions of this fascinating city). I can't imagine that any of those trips would have happened if we had remained living in North Carolina.

This month also marks our family's 10th anniversary of living car-free. When we arrived here, we intended to buy one car to share, but eventually challenged ourselves to see how long we could go without a car. We'd never lived anywhere with good public transportation options before, but it was remarkably easy to adjust to a lifestyle dependent upon bus, tram and train schedules. While my husband grew up cycling to school, I'd never been much of a cyclist. While I

must confess that I still get nervous during the rare times that I'm forced to cycle in the same lane as cars, I surprised myself at how quickly I adapted to grocery shopping by bike. Granted, I do cheat a few times per year when I ask a friend to take me to Sligro to stock up on paper goods and wine or when I borrow a car to run errands further afield. Although I still don't enjoy getting soaked on my bike, I am proud of our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint.

Closer to the hearts of AWC Members, a major milestone will occur at the Annual General Meeting on November 12 when Associate Members will be entitled to vote for the first time. I am thrilled that all AWC Members will now have an active voice in how our Club moves forward. It is wonderful that our Club can embrace the spirit of America by being inclusive rather than exclusive. Please join me in celebrating this amazing milestone in our Club's history over some turkey at our Thanksgiving Potluck after the meeting.

the Art of Seeing

eye examination
prescription sunglasses
prescription glasses
contact lenses
eye pressure

TOD'S
EYEWEAR

Petros
THE HAGUE

Petros The Hague Bankstraat 1x 2585 EE Den Haag
070 3462503 www.petros-thehague.nl

Marcel Vermeulen
jeweler & goldsmith

Handmade pink and white gold ring set with pink tourmaline and diamonds.

Prinsstraat 5, 070 3453333, info@marcelvermeulen.com

Newcomer Activities

by Greetje Englesman

Drop-in Coffee Morning

Whether you are new to The Hague or have lived here for years, you are invited to stop by the Clubhouse for this Newcomers' Coffee Morning. Bring your questions or challenges as you settle into life in your new homeland and we'll see what we can do to assist you. Do you need help with understanding how to work an appliance, how to read a bill, where to go to find particular products, how to apply for a transport card (OV chipkaart)....the list goes on and on! If you will be stopping by and have a specific question or need, email me in advance at newcomers@awcthehague.org so I can be prepared to assist. Feel free to drop by to enjoy a cup of coffee with new friends even if you don't have any specific questions or concerns. In the meantime, if you have an urgent question, please don't hesitate to contact me anytime.

Wednesday, November 18

10:30 a.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Welcome New Members!

Beverly Bennett

Elizabeth deLibero

Krishna Thakrar

November Birthdays

Lisa Brunslev	5
Seanette Meserole	8
Ellen Koup	12
Carol van Dijk	12
Pearl Waterreus	13
Anja Knoop	15
Paula Looijmans	16
Donna Baxter	17
Marianne Lemstra	17
Laurie Martecchini	20
Lynne Roukema	21
Sarah Allen	23
Teresa Mahoney	29



A few of our
Newcomers

bulthaup
Zoetermeer



Purism. Sensuality. Intelligence.

To see what else bulthaup kitchens have to offer, contact your local retail partner at the Verbreepark, Benthuisen.



Keukenarchitectuur BDZ
Verbreepark 27b. 2731 BR Benthuisen
Tel. 079 3434234

www.zoetermeer.bulthaup.nl

Ongoing Activities

Book Club: Daytime

The AWC Book Clubs are open to all book lovers and are always open to new Members. There is no obligation to attend every meeting or lead a discussion. We take turns bringing a snack. If you've always wanted to try out a book club, you have two options per month. You can now register yourself for either (or both!) Book Clubs on the AWC *GroupSpaces.com* website. Any questions? Please email **Teresa Mahoney** for the daytime group at bookclubday@awcthehague.org or **Rebecca Fry** for the evening group at bookclubevening@awcthehague.org. Happy reading!

The November Daytime Book Club selection is



All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr:

The winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, this beautifully written novel follows a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. Our

Evening Book Club gave it a unanimous recommendation (see below).

Wednesday, November 18 (new date)

10 a.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Recap of the September Discussion

After Birth: Is Elisa Albert a good writer? That depends. If she wanted (all but one of) us to

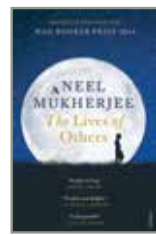
Daytime Book Club Planning Ahead:

Wednesday, December 16: *The Buried Giant* by Kazuo Ishiguro
Thursday, January 28: *A Spool of Blue Thread* by Anne Tyler
Thursday, February 25: *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante
Thursday, March 24: *The Farm* by Tom Rob Smith

loathe the main character, then she is a great writer. We hated Ari, the mother of one-year-old Walker. If Albert wanted us to sympathize with Ari as she struggled with loneliness and professional ennui in a dreary, economically depressed college town in upstate New York, then Albert is a bad writer. We found Ari's solution—to forge a bizarre symbiotic relationship with the free-spirited, older Mina, the single mother of a newborn—distasteful. More so when they started nursing each other's child. Their militancy about breastfeeding and Ari's insistence that she didn't give birth to Walker because she had a C-section drove us away. Come to think of it, Ari drove Mina away too. Run, Mina, run.

Book Club: Evening

The November Evening Book Club selection is *The Lives of Others* by Neel Mukherjee: Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2014, this novel is set in 1967 Calcutta and follows the lives of three generations of one family living together set against a backdrop of political discord.



Wednesday, November 18

7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Evening Book Club Planning Ahead:

Wednesday, December 9: *The Rise and Fall of Great Powers* by Tom Rachman
Wednesday, January 20: *The Buried Giant* by Kazuo Ishiguro
Wednesday, February 17: *The Blazing World* by Siri Hustvedt
Wednesday, March 16: *Song of the Shank* by Jeffrey Renard Allen
Wednesday, April 20: *The Harder They Come* by TC Boyle
Wednesday, May 18: *Early Warning* by Jane Smiley

Recap of the September Discussion

All the Light We Cannot See: The Evening Book Club got off to a wonderful start by choosing this unanimously enjoyed first selection. Readers agreed this book is a winner and one to recommend. Don't be put off by the World War II theme if you feel sated with that topic as fiction. This novel is much more a story of universal human complexity and struggle that just happens to be set during WWII. We found it mostly deserving of the many accolades heaped upon it.

Chat, Crafts & Cake

Let's get creative! The AWC is open to all crafters. If you've been looking for an open space large enough to lay out that king-size quilt, or need more table space to organize your photo albums or scrapbooks, or just need an excuse to stitch, pack up your supplies and bring them to the Clubhouse so you can chat with fellow AWC Members while you work. You might even be able to pick up some suggestions from a fresh pair of eyes. Each week, a different Member will bring a cake made from a never-before-tried recipe for tasting and critiquing. We're sorry, but babysitting is not available and thus we can't accommodate children. Questions? Contact: **Suzanne Dundas** at chatcraftcake@awcthehague.org

Tuesdays

10 a.m. – Noon

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Cranium Night

Everyone is good at something and Cranium is an adult team game that gives everyone a chance to be a "game hero." Up to four teams compete using charades, puppeteering, sculpting, drawing, word play and trivia—14 skills in all. It's fast-paced, lively and a lot of fun. And, it's perfect for the AWC because "the more the merrier." We've designated the second Friday of each month as Cranium Night. Come alone or bring a partner, but please be on time—we'll begin promptly. Contact **Suzanne Dundas** if you have any questions.

Friday, November 13

7:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

Free

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/999570

Dinner Club

Sign up to share dinner at home with AWC friends and spouses/partners. **Rebecca Niles-Pourier** will set the dates, place couples (or individuals) randomly, and assign the hostess. Then each hostess will set a theme and guests will be asked to prepare a dish. For example, if the theme is Italian, then one person might bring antipasto, one brings bread, one brings Italian wine, etc. The hostess may choose to cook the main course or do it all, but then you might be asked to contribute some money towards the cost. It will be up to each hostess how they want to structure the meal. You may be asked to host one dinner for >> 16



Expat Services for Expats

- Bathrooms
- Painting
- Carpentry renovations
- Interior and exterior repairs
- Roofs, windows, installations

Mob: 0614305615
www.thewallrenovations.nl
e-mail: golebiowski.patryk@gmail.com

For more information please visit our website.

Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 15

eight, six or four guests (depending on your space at home) and then you will be a guest at someone else's home the next time. This is a fun way to share an evening with new AWC friends while enjoying a great dinner. No need to worry as you don't have to be a gourmet chef! Mark your calendar for future dates: Saturdays, April 30 and July 2. Contact Rebecca at wwdp@awcthehague.org to join in the fun.

Saturday, January 23

Locations and Meals Vary

Sign-up deadline: January 15

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/991386

Heart Pillow Project

The AWC is in its 8th year of making heart-shaped pillows to support the arms of breast cancer patients in local hospitals. Each pillow is made with tender loving care, wrapped in a plastic bag tied with a beautiful bow and a message signed by a volunteer. No sewing skills are needed; just the ability to cut and stuff! What a wonderful way to meet new friends while contributing to a worthy cause. The emails we receive are so touching and show that women are linked everywhere to this terrible disease. We are proud to provide women with something not only practical, but comforting as well. If you can cut fabric, stuff fiberfill, thread a needle or tie a bow, we need you! No sign-up is necessary. For more information, contact Eileen Baker at heartpillow@awcthehague.org.

Tuesday, November 17

Noon – 2 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Visitors Welcome

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/996306

Out To Lunch Bunch – NEW

If you're interested in making new friends and exploring new restaurants throughout The Hague, then this is the group for you! Rather than setting one specific day of the



month, we will change our days each month in order to accommodate a variety of schedules. Once we have decided on the date and restaurant for that month, the details will be posted on the AWC Facebook Group and in eNews, and registration will open on GroupSpaces. If you have a favorite restaurant in your neighborhood you'd like to share with the group, please contact **Kathy DeBest** at debestjk@comcast.net

Pilates

Pilates is a form of exercise developed by Joseph Pilates which emphasizes body development through core strength, flexibility and body awareness. Pilates works the deeper, more stabilizing muscles of the spine and the abdominal wall. Doing Pilates makes you stronger, longer and leaner. **Ineke Latour**, certified STOTT Pilates® Instructor and AWC Member, will teach Pilates classes at the AWC Clubhouse. You will be monitored and corrected to enjoy responsible, safe and effective Pilates training. Email Ineke to sign up for these classes and pay her directly. Bring your own towel; Ineke will supply mats and props. All levels are welcome. Participants should arrive at the Club at 10:15 a.m. so class can start promptly at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

€ 15 per class Members

(€ 20 per class nonmembers)

Min 6 / Max 10

Contact: Ineke at

Latour@globalswing.com

Tennis League

The AWC Tennis Group plays doubles every Tuesday in Warmond. Ladies move up and down the courts according to a ladder tennis system. The emphasis is on having fun! The league is available for all levels except true beginners. If you are interested in being placed on the waiting list to become a regular player or would like to be on the sub list, contact **Molly Boed** at mollyboed@yahoo.com. **Tuesdays (except specific holidays)**

1 – 3 p.m.

Dekker Tennis Courts

Veerpolder 14, Warmond

€ 275 Members (€ 325 nonmembers)

Walkie Talkies

Taking a walk with friends is the perfect way to start your week! Join us for an energetic walk and talk. We meet in front of the Clubhouse each week and then walk to a variety of destinations between the beach, woods and city. Occasionally, we take longer walks which we announce on the AWC Facebook Group. Sign up for this group on GroupSpaces.com to get email updates or email **Emily van Eerten** at walkietalkies@awcthehague.org or **Greetje Engelsman** at newcomers@awcthehague.org.

Mondays

9:30 a.m.

FREE



AWC Guest Policy

Guests are welcome to participate in AWC activities and tours on a limited basis. As a nonmember, a guest is limited to attend two functions per calendar year and will be charged an additional nonmember fee. Only Members are entitled to use babysitting services.

Wassenaar Coffee & Conversation

Do you live in Wassenaar and want to get together with other AWC Members, but don't want to journey to the Clubhouse? Or maybe you would like to go to Wassenaar for a change of pace? Here is your chance! **Ramona Oswald** hosts a coffee at her home in Wassenaar on the first Thursday of every month for Members and prospective Members. Ramona will provide directions to her house when you sign-up.

Thursday, November 5

9 – 11 a.m.

Ramona's House

FREE

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/785299

Walky Barky – NEW

Walky Barky is the dog-version of Walkie Talkies. Join us with your pooch for walks in the woods or for some fun outings where we can bring our dogs along. We have started a closed Facebook Group which all AWC Members with dogs are invited to join: www.facebook.com/groups/walkybarky. Since we are a new group, we'd really appreciate your input on how often you'd like to join in as well as suggestions for dog-friendly places to walk.



One-of-a-Kind Activities

by Mallory Clarke

Your Color Silk Scarf Workshop

We all have a piece of clothing that just doesn't work for us because the color isn't right. In this workshop taught by AWC Member **Gabrielle van der Winden**, you will get a color assessment for your most complimentary colors. You will then be given a corresponding set of textile-dyes to make your own 100% silk scarf at this workshop in Gabrielle's home-based workspace in Wassenaar. Gabrielle will explain different kinds of painting techniques. You don't need to be extremely creative or an expert painter to create a beautiful scarf. As silk is a natural product, the result will always be wonderful. While the scarves are steaming to set the paint, you can watch a demonstration of how to tie a scarf. You will go home with a personal color-card and a beautiful silk scarf in your best colors.

Monday, November 2

12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**With Color Analysis: € 50 Members
(€ 55 nonmembers)**

**Scarf only: € 35 Members
(€ 40 nonmembers)**

Maximum 5

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1001281



RSVP directly on [AWC GroupSpaces.com](http://AWCGroupSpaces.com).

Direct any questions to

Activities@awcthehague.org.

Payment must be made within 5 calendar

days of reserving or your name will

be moved to a waitlist. Payment can

be made in the Front Office by PIN or

by bank transfer to the AWC account

NL42ABNA0431421757.

Jar-Filling Activity

Please join us for a fun and easy jar-filling activity at the Clubhouse. These beautifully finished gift jars filled with cookie and brownie mixes will be sold at the AWC Holiday Bazaar Bake Sale as part of our fundraising for the Club. All the ingredients will be set up assembly-line style so there will be plenty of time to chat with friends (and sneak chocolate chips!) while we work. If you can measure, dump out ingredients, cut fabric and tie ribbon, we would love to have your help. Light snacks will be available, but feel free to bring your lunch along.

Tuesday, November 10

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

Free

Sign up by November 8

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1004337



Royal Delft Tour and Ornament Painting

On this fun-filled day, you will first enjoy a guided tour of the Royal Delft Factory, and experience the craftsmanship of the Royal Delft painters firsthand. You can then try your hand at painting a Christmas ornament in the Delft Blue Christmas Ornament Workshop. This truly classic ornament makes a great keepsake as well as a fantastic gift. It is possible to paint a tile instead if you prefer. The painted products are not ready to be taken



home immediately as they must first be fired in the kiln. Once ready, they will be collected by an AWC Member for later pick-up at the Clubhouse. Lunch at Royal Delft is also included.

Thursday, November 19

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Royal Delft

Rotterdamseweg 196, Delft

€ 60 Members (€ 65 nonmembers)

Minimum 10 / Maximum 15

Cancellation deadline: November 12

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1001592

Shopping Party at Wool

Crafting is good for the body and soul. Join us for a shopping trip to Wool, an expanded and improved local craft store. Shop their fabulous selection of yarns, learn about their crafting classes, or check out the selection of fabrics for quilting or clothes making. We'll have a chance to shop, ask advice on any perplexing crafting questions and/or purchase a beautiful handmade item. Afterwards, we'll enjoy an (optional) lunch at Kua, an excellent Mexican restaurant nearby (at your own expense).

Friday, November 20

10:30 a.m. Meet at Marks & Spencer Coffee Shop

Free

RSVP by November 16

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1003121

>>20

Tailor-made holidays like works of art.

Fully-customized holidays in Europe and beyond. From a weekend in Paris, to an African safari. From a Mediterranean cruise to a luxury beach vacation. Why fuss with the internet? We make it all so easy! Ask for a free quote.

Travel4U@americantravelcenter.net

www.americantravelcenter.nl

American Travel Center

Tel. 00-32-61-234901

One-of-a-Kind Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 19

Card Workshop: Christmas Simply Beautiful



Are you looking to add a personal touch to your Christmas cards, but you don't know where to begin? Here's the answer! At this workshop, taught by AWC Member **Jaimie Keppel-Molenaar**, you'll make eight beautiful cards that your friends will love—

just don't tell them that they were easy to make. We'll supply the cards, colorful paper and Christmas-y stamps. You just have to bring a smile and get ready to enjoy.

Sunday, November 22

3 – 5:30 p.m.

AWC Clubhouse

€ 20 Members (€ 25 nonmembers)

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/997514

Yin Yoga & Sensory Experience

Join us for a relaxing morning at AVEDA The Hague's new yoga studio. We will begin with a specialized Sensory Journey and a tour of the new salon and spa. In an introduction, the practice of yoga will be explained, followed by a 60-minute Yin Yoga session. AVEDA will also be offering participants a special discount of 10% off products and future services booked on that day. For those interested, we will find a place to enjoy lunch in a nearby café (at own expense).

Wednesday, November 25

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

AVEDA The Hague

Denneweg 56, Den Haag

€ 15 Members (€ 20 nonmembers)

Maximum 12

Cancellation deadline: November 17

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/1001746

Thanksgiving at Pieterskerk And Lunch in Leiden

Each year, OAR ~ Overseas Americans Remember hosts a wonderful non-denominational Thanksgiving Service at the Pieterskerk in Leiden where our Pilgrim story began (see page 31 for more information). Following the service, we will have lunch at Het Koetshuis de Burcht. This restaurant sits at the base of the ruin of a historic castle built in the 11th century. It was a coach house from 1657 until 1981, when it was opened as a restaurant. After enjoying lunch we will head to the train station. If, after lunch, you'd prefer to visit the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum (housed in one of Leiden's oldest buildings, dating back to 1370), you will find it around the corner from the restaurant.

We will meet in front of Starbucks at Den Haag Centraal Station (DHCS) at 9:45 a.m. to train to Leiden. We'll then walk to the Pieterskerk, arriving at approximately 10:30 a.m. The Pieterskerk is always crowded, so we want to be there in time to have a good seat. Specific train details will be sent to the participants prior to the event. Don't forget your OV-chipkaart.

Thursday, November 26

Meet at Starbucks at DHCS: 9:45 a.m.

Service: 11 a.m.

Lunch: 12:30 p.m.

Train and lunch at own expense

RSVP by November 22

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/998756



Tours

by **Seanette Meserole**

One-Day Christmas Market Tour

Ahhhhh! The scent of mulled red wine, cinnamon cakes, gingerbread and beeswax hanging in the air can only mean one thing... it's Christmas Market time! Please join us for this year's trip to the Christmas Markets in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Dusseldorf's Christmas Markets transform the city along the Rhine into a magical festive world. Discover all kinds of Christmas delights at the 7 themed Christmas villages with more than 200 individual stalls. Themes include "Angel's Market" with angels and thousands of lights turning the area into a sea of light; a village of artisans working on wrought-iron, glass-blowing, and candle making; and booths that are replicas of Dusseldorf's historic townhouses. Dusseldorf's luxury shopping avenue, Königsallee, which dazzles shoppers all year long, is ablaze with holiday cheer, thanks to thousands of lights and decorations in the giant chestnut trees that line this elegant street.

Our Christmas Market trips over the last two years have been so popular that we have once again hired a bus for 50 passengers, so don't hesitate to invite your friends. We will depart near Den Haag Centraal Station (DHCS) at 8 a.m., ride in comfort to Dusseldorf chatting along the way, shop until we drop and then ride back to The Hague arriving about 9 p.m.



RSVP for all tours directly on
[AWC GroupSpaces.com](http://AWCGroupSpaces.com).
Direct any questions to
tours@awcthehague.org.

Tuesday, December 1

Meet at DHCS at 8 a.m.

€ 40 Members (€ 45 nonmembers)

Minimum 35 / Maximum 50

Cancellation deadlines:

November 13 – Last day for full refund

November 23 – Last day for 50% refund

November 24 – No Refunds

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/988056



Payment for all tours must be made within 5 calendar days of reserving or your name will be moved to a waitlist. Payment can be made in the Front Office by PIN or by bank transfer to the AWC account NL42ABNA0431421757.

AWC Holiday Bazaar

by Ginny Mees and Barbara Bremer

When: Saturday, November 14, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 15, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Where: Carlton Ambassador Hotel, Sophialaan 2, The Hague

Admission: € 2, children under 12 are FREE

Children's Activities: € 5



Santa and his elves (and the AWC Holiday Bazaar Committee) have been busy organizing a festive, fun-filled 2015 AWC Holiday Bazaar for the entire family! Whether you celebrate Sinterklaas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or Christmas, you are invited to join us. If you have not yet been to our Holiday Bazaar, it is open to the public and is a superb way to begin your holiday season. Why travel to other Christmas Markets when we have one right here in our own backyard!

This year we will incorporate several new initiatives which we hope will be welcomed by our AWC Members and also the Dutch and international communities here in The Hague. This 2015 Holiday Bazaar will feature a wide variety of international gifts with a renewed focus on handmade and/or unique gift ideas. We have added some health and wellness vendors plus an afternoon wine-tasting with our wine vendor so you can “try before you buy.” You will not want to miss this fun event!

In addition to the usual children's activities designed to keep your children entertained while you shop, Perfect Pastry will be conducting a cupcake decorating workshop for children ages 6 to 12 on both Saturday and Sunday from 2:30 – 4 p.m. Of course, there will also be the opportunity to take a picture with Santa! Finally we are introducing a separate Children's Market with special gifts for our younger shoppers.

The AWC Holiday Bazaar is the perfect family outing where you are sure to find a warm festive atmosphere, and special gifts for everyone!

The American Women's Club of The Hague
invites you to drop in to the annual



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

14–15 November 11:00–17:00

The Carlton Ambassador Hotel



Join the fun.....

Adults € 2

Children free -

Activities room €5

Santa Claus

Wine-tasting

Raffle prizes

Philanthropy Projects

by Karla Khan

Making Gingerbread Houses

Catch the Spirit!

Two FREE workshops are available for your convenience.

Join us for a fun and meaningful way to get into the Christmas spirit by creating authentic homemade German gingerbread houses. We will joyfully mix and bake dough, then construct the houses with icing and colorful



peppermint, chocolate and gumdrop candy, including stained glass windows made with red gelatin. The finished houses will be donated to local organizations, including Bronovo Hospital's oncology, labor, and children's wards and the Leger des Heils (Salvation Army) Women & Children's Shelter.



Before we can decorate, we need volunteers to bake the roofs and walls of the gingerbread houses in their homes prior to December 11. Even if you can't make it to either workshop, please let us know if you would like to help by contacting **Pam Pruijs-Bott**, AWC Community Service Coordinator at philanthropy@awcthehague.org to get the recipe and pattern for the house.

Friday, December 11

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/662913

or

Monday, December 14

7 – 10 p.m.

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/999575

AWC Clubhouse

FREE

Min 6 / Max 16

Cancellation Policy

Members may reserve a spot for an AWC tour, activity or event in advance. Payment is required within five business days of the reservation or before the deadline date (whichever is sooner) otherwise your name will be moved to a waitlist. It is the responsibility of the Member to notify the Club at awcthehague.finance@gmail.com to cancel a reservation prior to the cancellation deadline. Please note that there will be NO REFUNDS (no exceptions) after the cancellation deadline. Members may find a substitute in lieu of cancellation provided that arrangements are made with the tour, activity or event organizer. Members shall be held responsible for their guest reservations in accordance with this policy.

Calling All Bakers

by Jan Essad

Grab Your Aprons and Wooden Spoons—It's Time for Holiday Bazaar Baking!

The Holiday Bazaar Bake Sale needs your favorite cookie, fudge, cake, pie, muffins and "anything and everything sweet or savory you love to bake"! We need as many baked goods as possible to make this very important fundraiser a true success. If you haven't signed up already to contribute your most delicious culinary delight, it's not too late! Email me at bjessad@hotmail.com and I'll sign you up, send you some helpful hints, and answer any questions you may have.

Deadline for dropping off your baked goods at the Clubhouse is Friday, November 13 since we will need some time to put the finishing touches on your goodies to prepare them for sale. If it's not possible to drop them off early, please deliver them to the Carlton Ambassador

by 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 14. Also, if you would like volunteer to work for the Bake Sale at the Bazaar, be sure to email our Volunteer Coordinator, **Laurie Martecchini** at volunteercoordinator@awcthehague.org.

So, put on your aprons, grab those wooden spoons and happy baking! We are looking forward to a "sweet" success, thanks to all you bakers.



FRITSTAXI
AIRPORT SERVICE
WWW.FRITSTAXI.NL

Specialists in Taxi Airport Transfers to Schiphol and Rotterdam Airports

Flat Rates from The Hague Region:

Schiphol Airport:	Drop Off €62	Pick Up €67
Schiphol with Van:	Drop Off €75	Pick Up €80
Rotterdam Airport:	From €35	

For a free quote from other cities or for bookings contact us on **+31 (0)622 395536** (07.00 to 22.00) or email us at fritstaxi@msn.com

All major credit cards accepted

FOR SHELL PEOPLE WE DRIVE WITH SHELL RULES



More! Fall Kick Off



NOVEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m. Your Color Silk Scarf Painting Workshop 12:30 p.m.	3 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	4 Pilates 10:15 a.m.	5 Wassenaar Coffee and Conversation 9 a.m. AWC Board Meeting 10:30 a.m. Tour of Mauritshuis: Dutch Self Portraits 6:30 p.m.	6	7
8	9 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	10 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Holiday Bazaar Cookie Jar Filling Noon AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	11 Pilates 10:15 a.m.	12 Coffee 10 a.m. November General Meeting 10:30 a.m. Potluck Lunch after General Meeting Noon	13 Cranium Night 7:30 p.m.	14 <div>AWC Holiday Bazaar 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.</div> Marine Corps Ball 6 p.m.
15 <div>AWC Holiday Bazaar 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.</div>	16 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	17 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Heart Pillow Workshop Noon AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	18 Daytime Book Club 10 a.m. Pilates 10:15 a.m. Newcomer's Coffee morning 10:30 a.m. Evening Book Club 7:30 p.m.	19 Royal Delft Tour and Ornament Painting 9 a.m.	20 Shopping Trip at Wool and Mexican Lunch 10:30 a.m.	21
22 Christmas Simply Beautiful- Card Making 3 p.m.	23 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.	24 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	25 Aveda Yin-Yoga & Sensory Experience 10 a.m. Pilates 10:15 a.m.	26 Thanksgiving at Pieterskerk, and Lunch in Leiden 9:45 a.m. Happy Thanksgiving! Clubhouse Closed	27	28
29	30 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m.			Final 2014 Events: Dec 1: Christmas Markets in Dusseldorf Dec 11, 14: Making Gingerbread Houses Dec 17: Ornament Exchange		



Wassalon Weissenbruch
 Weissenbruchstraat 25
 Tel.: 070 - 324 83 16

**Do you love clean
 ironed sheets?**
 Let us do them for you!

Opening Times

Monday to Friday 8.00 - 17.00
Saturday 9.00 - 13.00



DO GOOD THINGS!

Visit The FAWCED Foundation's online *Backlog Women Boutique* to support "Free the Girls" which provides help for women and girls rescued from sex trafficking in developing countries. Net proceeds will be donated to the project.



FIND THE BOUTIQUE ON WWW.FAWCEDFOUNDATION.ORG/BACKLOGWOMENBOUTIQUE

**YOUR
 CLEANING
 SERVICES INC.**

079 - 342 40 58
Free estimates given in your home

WE will clean: tubs & sinks,
 mirrors, toilets, counter tops.
 Plus: vacuum, dust, mop, load dishwasher,
 change sheets, wipe appliances & canisters,
 wipe out microwave, shampoo carpets and
 polish your wood floors.

ALL FOR ONE LOW PRICE

YOUR CLEANING SERVICE INC.
Personalized Service
Satisfaction guaranteed

Fax/Phone: 079 - 342 40 58 Mob.: 065 - 317 17 07
 Email: info@yourcleaningservice.nl www.yourcleaningservice.nl
Free estimates

ACCESS
 SERVING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

ACCESS is a volunteer not-for-profit
 organisation that serves the needs
 and interests of the international
 community in the Netherlands.

We can help you!

Call us on 0900 2 222 377 (€0.20 ct/min),
 email us via helpdesk@access-nl.org,
 visit www.access-nl.org for your answers,
 or attend our info mornings to find out how you
 can help others. Check website for dates.

www.access-nl.org

Thanksgiving Day Service

by Roberta Enschede

Thursday, November 26 at 11 a.m.
Pieterskerk in Leiden



Please join us at this non-denominational service on Thanksgiving morning at the historic Pieterskerk. The service lasts approximately one hour, combining a civil ceremony with a Service of Thanksgiving. A Catholic priest, Protestant and Anglican ministers, a rabbi and a cantor will conduct the service. Bring your Dutch friends and friends from all nations and beliefs. This is a service for everyone! Consider joining the AWC for lunch afterwards (see page 20 for more details).

*I would not omit to mention I felt a respect and
 veneration upon entering the church at Leiden.*

~ Abigail Adams

For Americans, Thanksgiving at the Pieterskerk in Leiden is unique. In that church, the Pilgrims recorded their births, marriages and deaths. They lived in its surroundings from 1609 to 1620. In fact, some of the descendants of Moses Fletcher, a Leiden Pilgrim and subsequently a signer of the Mayflower Compact, still live there. Ria Koet, his direct descendant, will tell the story of her family, the only non-American members of the Mayflower Society.

On the occasion of the visit of President George H.W. Bush, the first sitting American President to visit the Netherlands, the Pieterskerk was the site chosen for him to speak. The Bush Family traces their ancestry to Francis Cooke, also a signer of the Mayflower Compact and a Leiden pilgrim. A few years ago, the Leiden roots of President Obama were also discovered. He descends from the Blossom Family who came to America on another ship called the Mayflower in 1629.

In Leiden, one feels how inextricably the values of the American nation are linked with the Netherlands. The story of a group of English dissenters who were welcomed there and able to live and worship freely and even publish at a time when freedom of religion and the press were certainly not the norm, is a Dutch story, an American story, and reflects the aspirations of millions today.

American sopranos, Anna Trombetta and Jennifer Whennon, will sing and the congregation will join with the hymns we love and associate with Thanksgiving. Coincidentally, one of those hymns, *We Gather Together*, is originally the Dutch hymn *Wilt Heden Nu Treden*.

The Mayor of Leiden, the Honorable Henri J. J. Lenferink, will speak as well as the US Chargé D'Affaires Adam Sterling, who will also share excerpts from the President's Thanksgiving Proclamation. JAKK, the select choral group from the American School of The Hague, will sing under the direction of Iban Goldwasser and the ASH Concert Band directed by Jimmy Yarnell will perform. The Boys and Girl Scouts of all ages and the "Little Pilgrims" led by Katherine Farnsworth will be there to welcome everyone. You won't forget Thanksgiving in Leiden! Please join us.

We would welcome a "cookie contribution" for the coffee after the service. For your convenience, please carpool or take public transportation, if possible.

The Thanksgiving Day Service is sponsored by OAR ~ Overseas Americans Remember (oarinnl@yahoo.com). For further information, contact: Roberta Enschede, Coordinator at robertaenschede@yahoo.com, Anneke Beeuwkes, Michele Fiszbeijn, Tove McGrew or Jessie Rodell.

The Dutch Daily

by Eileen Harloff

To Be or Not To Be...

...that is the question that is facing the country once more as Sinterklaas time rolls around. The UN Committee for the Eradication of Racism and Discrimination (CERD) has advised the Netherlands government to actively promote a different image for a legendary figure in Dutch culture – namely the helpers of Sinterklaas. These helpers – known as Zwarte Piet (Black Peter) – shinny down chimneys to leave, depending on how each child has been acting, a gift in the shoe that the child has set out on the hearth. Prime Minister Mark Rutte prefers that the national government not take a stand on the hot question of an image overhaul. He has responded to the UN Committee that the question of Zwarte Piet is not a matter for the central government, but rather for its citizens. The citizens, however, are divided on the subject. Some find the tradition of blackening white faces, painting on large red lips and donning curly wigs discriminatory and offensive to some fellow citizens. Others see nothing wrong, pointing out that Sinterklaas' helpers are black because they have to shinny down soot-coated chimneys and can't help but take on a dark countenance. Even within various racial groups there is a difference of opinion. Some regard Zwarte Piet as a reminder of the days of slavery, while others are proud that their race was chosen to help



bring holiday pleasure to the children. Within the government itself there are pro and con groups. Some say the central government is being forced to act on this question, others say that the UN report only advises that certain aspects of the tradition be changed.

In the meantime, organizers are hard at work readying for the annual arrival of Sint in Scheveningen Harbor, on November 14. They point to changes which have already been made: large earrings have been omitted, thick red lips and tight curls have disappeared, and some helpers now have white faces. The discussions are not yet over with; school officials, parent groups, and guilds for Zwarte Piet and Sinterklaas are busy with the question, but the results are not yet in.

New-Age Windmills

What is more Dutch than windmills? Over the years their appearance and purpose have continued to change, all the way from grinding grain to making electricity in large wind farms on windy hillsides or offshore, and other chores in between. The latest rendition has been designed by a group of young men who met each other during their technical training in the east of the country. They have now come to The Hague and set up production of what they call the EAZ-12 Windmill. The

prototype of this windmill was erected in Groningen on the farm of one group member's father, and it is functioning so well that the group is going to put it on the market. The windmill is 50 feet (15 meters) high and has a rotor diameter of 40 feet (12 meters). Originally intended for farms wishing to create their own energy, the mills can also provide energy to small villages, as each mill is capable of supplying electricity for around ten households. The advantages of the



mechanical technique used are an attractive design, dependability, and continuous production. Moreover, because it is made of natural materials, the mill fits in well with the landscape. The inventors are now looking for customers with an eye on the many greenhouses in the area of The Hague. They are just beginning, but they see a great future and are convinced that their invention may well "conquer the world." Good luck E.A.Z. Wind! (To learn more, visit their website at www.eazwind.com)

Cleaning Up Chernobyl

In April 1986, a reactor exploded at Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in northern Ukraine, then part of the Soviet Union. Clouds of radioactive material were sent into the atmosphere and were driven by the wind to the north and west. Local firemen and other helpers rushed to the scene to help save those in the area, without being warned by officials of the danger of their mission. As a result, a high percentage of the rescuers, who wore no protective clothing, subsequently suffered serious radiation sickness and died.

When I was on a trip to Ukraine in 2004, I went to the area of this tragedy and visited an exhibition dedicated to the memory of deceased children from a nearby school that was badly damaged by the explosion. It

was a classroom with colorful pictures on the wall and toys placed on shelves or scattered about the room, and it looked as if at any minute children would be coming in to play – it was a profoundly tragic sight. In 2011, Chernobyl was named an official tourist destination, as the site of "the largest release of radioactive particles ever for a civilian operation."

Now the Dutch company Mammoet, which is located in Schiedam and specializes in heavy transport and lifting projects,

has been given the task of putting a new protective shell over the nuclear reactor, covering a temporary protective roof that was put in place in 1986 and is now obsolete. The new shell was made in two parts to be bolted together using 1,000 bolts. The structure weighs 35,000 tons (31,751,466 kg) and is 540 feet (165 meters) long by 360 feet (110 meters) high. Although Mammoet is experienced in salvage tasks – in 2001, to general acclaim, they raised the Russian nuclear submarine *Koersk* – they dub their new task as "an exceptional piece of engineering." The moving of the shell to its final position is planned for late 2016. Once the arch is placed over the reactor building, it will provide a controlled confinement for the radioactive remains of Reactor Unit 4, allowing a partial deconstruction of the old plant to be carried out in the future.



Announcements

10th Leiden Film Festival

The Leiden Film Festival (LIFF) has become one of the leading film festivals in the Netherlands showcasing feature films that examine the border between art-house and mainstream cinema from all over the world. The American Indie Competition is LIFF's main competition that focuses entirely on young American talents who are yet unknown to international audiences. The festival runs through Sunday, November 8 in various locations in Leiden. For the program and tickets, go to: www.leidenfilmfestival.nl

Annual Church Bazaar

The American Protestant Church of The Hague will have its 58th Annual Bazaar in its recently renovated building. You can savor appetizing dishes and delicacies from the international kitchen, as well as shop for books, clothing, accessories, arts and crafts, and more. Free entrance with proceeds from sales to support charities worldwide.

Saturday, November 7
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

American Protestant Church of The Hague
Esther de Boer-van Rijklaan 20, Den Haag
www.apch.nl

International Family Fair

Raising children in a foreign country is not easy. This fair is designed to help you navigate the Dutch parenting waters by offering a variety of workshops and seminars on raising international children. Tickets are € 10 and include access to the information market, workshops and kids' activities for one adult and up to two children.

Sunday, November 8
1 – 5:30 p.m.

Het Koorenhuis
Prinsegracht 27, Den Haag
www.internationalfamilyfair.nl

DFAS Art Lecture

Persepolis and the Empires of Ancient Persia

Founded by Cyrus the Great and ruled by the Great Kings, Darius and Xerxes, the Persian Empire had a magnificent royal palace at Persepolis which dated back to 515BC. Although destroyed by Alexander the Great, luckily there



are still monumental architectural remains of great beauty. Lecturer John Osborne graduated in Classics at Cambridge University and taught for more than 30 years at Marlborough College. He worked for several years for the British Council in Iran and Turkey, resulting in a long-standing interest in Islamic culture.

Tuesday, November 10
Doors open at 7:30 p.m.
Lecture begins at 8 p.m.
Cultural Centrum Warenar
Kerkstraat 75, Wassenaar
Non-DFAS member fee is € 12
www.dfas.nl

Sinterklaas Arrival

Sinterklaas arrives from Spain in the Netherlands every year on the 2nd or 3rd



weekend in November, visiting different towns at various times. He will arrive aboard the SS Madrid in Scheveningen Harbor on Saturday, November 14. After his arrival at 11:30, he will make his way on his white horse, accompanied by a full parade of Zwarte Piets, through the streets of Scheveningen and the Statenkwartier into The Hague Centrum. Even if you don't have young children, this annual event is uniquely Dutch and is quite a wonderful sight. For more info, including the parade route, visit: www.sinterklaasindenhaag.nl

Crossing Border Festival

Crossing Border, one of Europe's largest literary and music festivals, caters to an audience of broad cultural interests. Hosted for the 23rd time in The Hague, one of Crossing Border's goals is to highlight both international stars and new artists in literature and music as well as their interconnection with other arts.

Thursday, November 12 through
Tuesday, November 17
Various venues in Den Haag Centrum
www.crossingborder.nl



Documentary Film Festival

Creative documentaries take center stage during the 28th International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), one of the leading documentary film festivals in the world. The IDFA is the place for documentaries that are cinematically intriguing or innovative, that are relevant or highly topical to society at large, and that stimulate the viewer to reflect, discuss and ask questions.

Wednesday, November 18 through
Sunday, November 29
Various Locations in Amsterdam
www.idfa.nl

International Food Fair

The Parish of the Church of Our Saviour sponsors this large-scale International Food Fair every November for charity. The diverse members of the parish community from more than 90 nations come together to provide entertainment and to prepare and sell their own national food specialties, wines, pastries and handicrafts. Each country or region takes pride in decorating their booths with national flags and working together as a team. There are kids' activities, a raffle, >> 36



the international Anglican Church in the Leiden area

every Sunday
Church Service

with children's &
youth programme



10.30 am
BSN Senior School
Voorschoten

Contact:
Ruan Crew (chaplain)
chaplain@stjames.nl
071-5613020

Tim Carroll (youth minister)
youthminister@stjames.nl
06-46697651

www.stjames.nl

Announcements (cont.)

Continued from page 35



a large used English book sale and a flea market. The event's proceeds are donated to several charitable organizations around the world for life-sustaining projects. Past projects included farming, carpentry, women's support, street children's education and rehabilitation for homeless people, to name just a few. In 2014, the fair raised €40,000 with 100% of the funds dispersed to charities around the world.

Saturday, November 21
Noon – 6:30 p.m.
Francois Vatel School
Granaathorst 20, Den Haag
(behind the Mariahoeve Shopping Center)
Free entrance
www.parish.nl

Antique and Art Fair
PAN Amsterdam, the Netherlands' premier art and antiques fair, is renowned for its high-quality, international offerings by 125 galleries of thousands of paintings, furniture, maps, prints and sculptures from the 16th century to the present. The common denominator is that all the objects are vetted by a group of 70 experts for authenticity, artistic quality and condition. Prices range from €500 to € 500,000. Over 45,000



visitors, from museum curators to private art enthusiasts, are attracted to this fair every year.
Sunday, November 22 through
Sunday, November 29
Amsterdam RAI Parkhal, Europaplein
www.pan.nl

Country & Christmas Fair

The Kasteel de Haar (near Utrecht) is the perfect setting for the 18th Country & Christmas Fair. More than 200 exhibitors in heated booths greet visitors in a magical environment



full of lights, Christmas trees and beautiful decorations. Discounted tickets are available online.

Wednesday, November 25 –
Sunday, November 29
Kasteel de Haar
Kasteellaan 1, Haarzuilens
www.countrychristmasfair.nl

St. Andrew's Charity Ball

The St. Andrew's Society hosts a yearly charity ball in celebration of St. Andrew's Day (the feast day of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland). A highlight will be Scottish-style dancing to live music for enthusiasts of all abilities. Bringing a dance partner is uniquely unnecessary! The € 99 ticket includes a Highland banquet, wine with dinner and dancing throughout the evening. Kilts are not obligatory! Tickets may be purchased from Marion at maria.janine@ziggo.nl or 065 117 3229 until November 20. If you want to practice a few dances before the ball, you are welcome to join the Reel Club which meets every Friday in the British School on

Diamanthonst in The Hague from 8 – 10 p.m.
Saturday, November 28
6:30 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Den Haag
www.standrews.nl

Beauty and the Beast, a Pantomime

Distinctively British, a panto is a popular form of family entertainment incorporating song, dance, slapstick comedy, cross-dressing and audience participation. This holiday season, the Anglo American Theatre Group (AATG) presents its own twist on a familiar tale. The story opens in the traditional pantomime village, a place where everyone lives a blissful, happy existence, smiling and laughing all the time. Sounds nice, doesn't it? It is a place undisturbed by fiscal and international uncertainties, potential Grexit and stock market fluctuations...up until now at least! The heroine, Tamara, and her father, a successful businessman, enjoy life, despite her mother having disappeared in mysterious circumstances. Love is in the air as Gilbert, a man so vain he goes to sleep cuddling a mirror, has decided that he will choose a wife. And don't forget those silly stories of a horrible,

terrifying, blood curdling scary beast in the Forbidden Forest. Fun for the whole family!
Saturday, December 5 –
Sunday, December 6
Koninklijke Schouwburg, Den Haag
www.aatg.nl

International Art Exhibit

Artists International Netherlands is a small group based in The Hague. This year's exhibition theme "Do You See What I See" reflects that diversity and richness of cultural heritage through the eyes of seven artists, including AWC Member **Vesna Southwick**. The artists are from all over the world with different artistic backgrounds and life stories, meeting together in an informal environment to paint, learn different techniques from each other, share creative ideas, learn more about the Dutch art world and simply to have a great time together. The group was founded at Outpost The Hague, a support network for Shell employees and their families.

Through January 16, 2016
STC Events
Wilhelminakade 701, Rotterdam



FAWCO Corner

by Elizabeth Kennedy



Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, a United Nations NGO with consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council www.fawco.org.

Matching Donations for Target Project

The commitment of FAWCO Clubs to donate bras to help rescued women through the FAWCO Target Project has been amazing! Free The Girls (www.freethegirls.org) helps survivors become economically empowered. Now we need your help to get those donated bras to the women who need them most. Did you know that it costs \$20 to ship a carton of 200 bras from the organization's central collection point in Indiana to one of the three countries with active programs?

We are pleased to announce a Matching

Grant Challenge for the final fundraising push for the FAWCO Target Program. **The FAWCO Foundation will match individual donations dollar-for-dollar up to a total of \$3,000 through December 31, 2015.** To make a donation, go to www.fawcofoundation.org.

2016 Education Awards and Development Grants

It's that time of year again! The FAWCO Foundation is looking for applicants for the 2016 Development Grant and Education Awards. Details and application forms can be found on The FAWCO Foundation website at www.fawcofoundation.org.

Get Those Extra Passport Pages NOW!

If your passport is quickly filling up with stamps from your travels, it's time to get those extra pages now. The US Department of State will add up to two sets of 24 pages in your passport through the end of this year. After January 1, 2016, you will no longer be able to request extra pages. When your passport is full, you will have to apply for a completely new passport. Thus, if you still have several years on your current passport, it is advisable to add the pages now while it is still possible. If you have to renew your passport anyway, all new passports issued overseas will have 52 pages.

The decision to no longer add extra pages is based on a 2012 study which showed that the US is the only country that allows additional pages to be inserted in a passport. In 2012, there were 168,000 page requests made compared to the issuance of 12 million passports. Visa pages pose vulnerabilities to both the physical security of the passport and the issuance process.

Processing the application for extra pages is \$82 or €78; this is the same fee for one or two sets of extra pages for both walk-in or mail requests. The Amsterdam Consulate offers in-person same-day service applications for extra passport pages. The appointment system, however, is a global system so does not include that option. When booking your appointment online to add additional visa pages to your passport at <http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov>, please request an appointment to "Apply for a US passport for the first time."



Don't forget to download, fill out and bring the application form DS-4085. If you plan to pay for your service in cash, please try to bring exact change; PIN cards are not accepted, but credit cards are. The passport will be ready for collection in the afternoon between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. and you do not need an extra appointment for collection. Keep in mind that no electronics are allowed in the Consulate, including no cell phones.

Did you know that any English-speaking woman may join the AWC?



Invite your English-speaking friends from other countries who have an affinity for Americans to join us today!



NEW MATCHING GRANT!

INDIVIDUAL DONOR CHALLENGE

MATCHING POT OF \$3,000

We are so proud of our Member Clubs' commitment to donate bras to help women rescued from human trafficking through the FAWCO Target Project.

Now we need your help to get our donated bras to the women who need them most. Did you know that it only costs \$20 to ship a carton of 200 bras from Free The Girl's central collection point in Indiana to one of the three countries with active programs?

Offer Ends December 31, 2015

www.fawcofoundation.org



Everything you need for your beloved pets!

Happy Critters Pet Supplies

Weissenbruchstraat 63
2596 GB Den Haag
070-7370856
www.happycritters.nl

The Loo Down

by Mary Adams

A brochure for Paleis Het Loo (sounds like “hit low”) has been gathering dust in my travel folder for years. I’ve always meant to visit this piece of Dutch royal history, but I never quite made it. When I read that the AWC was planning a trip there to see an exhibition on Empress Elisabeth of Austria (affectionately called by her childhood nickname, Sisi), I marked the page. My husband Jerry’s parents were faithful watchers of the *Sissi* film trilogy from director Ernst Marischka, and I have visited the Hofburg Palace in Vienna where Sisi and Franz Josef lived after they were married. I vaguely remembered reading that she was a 16-year-old bride, ill-prepared for strictly formal Hapsburg court life and at odds with her mother-in-law. However, I didn’t gain a Sisi fascination or feel compelled to watch any of the movies; for me it was far more satisfying to savor fine coffee and pastries while in Vienna.

I showed the Sisi tour information to Jerry. Since his parents have special mobility needs, he didn’t think that they could keep up with the AWC ladies, so he decided that we should go by ourselves. Since I have usually been the family event planner, I was pleased to go off duty and leave the planning to him. We crammed two scoot-mobiles in the back of the SUV and set off for Apeldoorn. I asked if any of the native Dutchies in my car had already visited the Palace and the answer was no; typical for any tourist site in your own backyard.

“What is a Loo?” I asked. Silence. I whipped out my trusty iPad. Plenty of history, but nothing about the name. I dug deeper into the Internet as the SUV sped through the Veluwe – a series of forest-rich hills in the province of Gelderland. Aha – a hit! Het Oude Loo was a castle built in the 15th century as a hunting lodge. The name means “The

Old Woods.” In 1684, William III of Orange bought the castle and surrounding land and built... Het Loo, hence Paleis het Loo, or “The Forest Palace.” Mystery solved. I shut the iPad with a satisfying click. As we approached the turnoff, we were in the deep, dark forest, with signs warning of deer and wild pigs on the road. The Palace entry sign was so small that we missed it and had to turn around. The country lane was a lush green arbor. No other vehicle on the roads – just the birds singing and the wild pigs lurking in the underbrush.

When we rolled into the parking lot and unloaded, the parking area appeared quite small to me. We had been warned by the staff that it would be a short walk to the palace gates – so we disregarded other people in the parking lot pulling on their hiking boots. Putt-putt went the scoot-mobiles and we were off!

“Which way?” I asked Jerry. He shrugged. We started walking. And walking. It was a beautiful day. We passed varieties of mushrooms, fields of deer resting in the morning sunlight, horses neighing in their pastures. When we passed people busy with Nordic walking sticks, it occurred to me that we were in the forest paths and not actually on the palace walk. Finally, on the horizon, I could see the gates. So we kept walking. So much for my tour guide’s pre-work on logistics! I shouldn’t grumble, since his mistake led us to a lovely walk in the woods – no need feeling Grimm about our adventure. So far, no wild pigs or big bad wolves had revealed themselves.

When we made it to the Palace gates, they were locked. Jerry called the guard on



the emergency line, and we were instructed to walk another 15 minutes to the main entrance. Putt, putt!

Since no photography was allowed at the exhibition, I can only show you Sisi’s exterior portrait. The title of the exhibit was *Sisi: Fairytale & Reality*. What I learned about her showed a much richer interior than I expected.

I wandered through the exhibit looking at the bits and pieces of royal life assembled behind the glass cases, casually reading the plaques, avoiding elbows and the wheels of the scoot-mobiles as we navigated through the rooms. Yeah, yeah – a fairytale life filled >> 42



The Loo Down (cont.)

Continued from page 41

with silver service, diamond stars wrapped in her hair, coronations, salutations, blah blah blah.

Then I whiffed the first scent of reality creeping in. There was an enlarged photo of Sisi's son Rudolf, a small boy with a sad face, outlandishly dressed in a military uniform, cape, sword and all the trimmings. Apparently this little fellow was promoted to Colonel the week after his birth! His early training was purely military and it wasn't until Sisi threatened divorce that the education focus was shifted to intellectual pursuits, for which "he held his mother in great gratitude." Hmmm. Then I read that the Evil Mother-in-law, Princess Sophie, separated Sisi from her children, forcing her to make visitation appointments. Cinderella images floated in my head. As I recalled, the *Sissi* movies had a happy ending with harmony restored to family life. Apparently, that didn't happen. Poof! Sisi Cinderella goes up in smoke.

As I browsed her clothing and portraits, I noticed one of her belts – the waist size was teeny tiny. She weighed 110 pounds (50 kilos) her entire life and maintained a waist size of 18.5 inches (47 centimeters). A normal waist size for a woman is 32 inches (81 centimeters) and even perfect measurements for waists stop at 26 inches (66 centimeters). Then I read a bit about her eating, fasting, food aversions, suspected food binging and "tight-lacing" to keep her slim figure. I saw a Sisi mannequin in a dressing robe with a cascade of thick auburn hair from shoulder to shoulder and reaching the floor. The plaque said her hair weighed 11 pounds (5 kilos). Sisi Rapunzel, when did you let down your hair? Every night it took two hours for her personal hairdresser to unbraid it and every morning it took him two hours to braid it. She often complained of headaches – so a way was devised to lift her hair above her head to take off the weight. Her hair was washed every two weeks with a special essence of eggs and cognac, and all other activities for shampoo day were cancelled. During these

"leisure" hours she learned English, French, Hungarian, and modern and ancient Greek. Everything from dainty clothing to tailored horse-riding outfits, exercise regimes and wanderlust tourism exposed a haunted woman seeking to escape family and retreat into a Snow White coma. Was fame, fortune, beauty and intelligence Sisi's poison apple?

The next items I saw in the exhibit were eerie. Black mourning clothes seemingly floating in the air: a whisper of the Mayerling incident. It sounds very Agatha Christie. Mirror, mirror on the wall – who is the unhappiest of them all? Enter 30-year-old Crown Prince Rudolf, unhappily married and having



an affair with a 17-year-old baroness named Mary. Mayerling was the family hunting lodge where the couple was holed up. From letters written by Mary, Rudolf dreamed up a Shakespearian theme: to prove their everlasting love, he would shoot her with a pistol and then kill himself. And he did, a shocking case of murder/suicide. Sisi dressed in black the rest of her life.

Her death reads like a Sherlock Holmes whodunit. In 1898, Sisi was traveling incognito to Geneva, Switzerland. She was on foot to catch a steamship to her next destination. A man walked by and appeared to stumble. However, Luigi Lucheni didn't actually stumble, for he had an evil plot. He was 25 years old and wanted to become a political martyr by assassinating someone of royalty who did nothing to help the common people. Since he lacked the 12 francs needed to buy a proper stiletto, he sharpened a needle file into a very thin homemade dagger and fashioned some firewood into a handle. He stabbed Sisi with the needle. She collapsed, but was able to make it aboard the ship. Though the exhibit didn't provide any gory details about this incident, the Internet did.

One of the first acts of mercy aboard the ship was to cut her corset laces so that she could breathe. Sisi stirred and asked, "What happened?" but then lost consciousness. She was taken to her hotel, where she died. She was 60 years old. What I read in the death account brings that tiny waistline back to mind. The needle penetrated her heart, but because the wound was so narrow, her extremely tight lacing could have saved her life. It essentially provided enough pressure to slow down to mere droplets what should have been a massive hemorrhage into her heart's pericardial sac. How ironic to consider that her obsession with beauty might have saved her life if the corset were left securely fastened. It was as if her fairy godmother had waved the wand and zapped her carriage into a pumpkin.

Sisi was buried and honored with pomp and circumstance, still beloved by the people, shrouded in mystery and adored in fairytales. At the end of the exhibit, I stood in front of her death mask. The features were fine, small and beautiful. Behind the wall, I heard the music from the *Sissi* movies which starred Romy Schneider, full of music, romance and true love. That's real life, right?



AWC Archives Used for New Exhibition

by Sarah Bringhurst Familia

A new exhibition is currently displayed at The Hague City Hall using material from several local archives, including that of the American Women's Club of The Hague (AWC), to illustrate how expatriates have experienced the city over the past several decades. The exhibition, entitled "Expat Impressions of The Hague," explores the expatriate experience in The Hague, drawing on letters, journals, photographs and other primary source materials documenting their observations about their adopted city since the 1950s.

Organizations like the AWC play an important role for expatriates in The Hague by providing support, information, and a place to come together and accomplish worthwhile activities. The exhibition celebrates these activities, as well as all the everyday moments that make living in The Hague different from anywhere else for the expatriates who have called it home.

Delving into the Archives

The photos, articles, and news clippings that have been preserved by the AWC in its archives constitute a historical treasure, telling a unique part of the story of what it has been like to be an expatriate woman in this most international of cities during the 85 years that the AWC has been in existence. AWC Member **Kristine Racina**, the Director of the Expatriate Archive Centre (EAC: www.xpatarchive.com) and one of the driving forces behind the exhibition, approached AWC President **Becky Failor** for permission to include some of the AWC's archival material in the upcoming exhibition.

Kristine was grateful that **Jessie Rodell** was willing to spend a day sitting on the floor at the AWC Clubhouse going through old scrapbooks and scanning potentially useful photographs and articles with a cell phone. As a result of their efforts, more than one piece from the AWC archives has found its way into the exhibition, including a heartwarming story about asking for directions in



Louise Andres trying to prove she is not tired after eight hours walking The Hague, AWC Scrapbook, 1960s.

The Hague, and the delightful photograph of an AWC Member at the Peace Palace shown here.

The EAC, which preserves primary source materials documenting the expatriate experience, has two partners that have assisted in preparing the exhibition: The Hague Municipal Archive and ACCESS. Besides the AWC, other sponsors include Shell, The Hague Bridge, CB&I, Rabobank, and Petroleum Women's Club The Hague.

When and Where

This free exhibition will be presented in both English and Dutch in the Atrium of the City Hall in The Hague. The mayor will officially inaugurate the exhibition at an invitation-only reception to be held on November 4.

Through November 14

Weekdays 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., open until 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays

Saturdays 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Stadhuis

Spui 70, Den Haag

AWC and the Arts

by Jane Choy

Guided Tour of Dutch Self-Portraits: Selfies of the Golden Age

Tour by Jane Choy, Docent

The self-portrait is perhaps the best expression of the phenomenal explosion of the art of painting that took place in the Dutch Golden Age. Seventeenth century Dutch painters portrayed themselves more than painters anywhere else in the world. Dutch painters developed various types of self-portraits: as gentlemen, with family members, role-playing, and with artist's accessories. These paintings have much to tell us about the artist's self-image and presentation. The painter often makes a statement about his (or her) profession, status or positioning in the world. The self-portrait is also much more than an image of the artist, but also an example of his style. This exhibition will offer a focused overview of the genre, with an emphasis on self-portraits that show the tools of the trade, a

RSVP for all Arts Activities directly on [AWC GroupSpaces.com](http://AWCGroupSpaces.com).
Direct any questions to jechoy@me.com

category that is particularly well-represented in Dutch art. Save time by buying your entrance ticket online in advance.

Thursday, November 5

6:30 – 8 p.m.

Mauritshuis

Plein 29, Den Haag

€ 10 Members (€ 12.50 nonmembers) PLUS Museum Entrance Fee (€ 14 or free with Museumkaart)

Minimum 12 / Maximum 15

Non-refundable

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/988780



Future Activities



There will be two interesting exhibits opening soon at the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague: *Ode to Dutch Fashion* and *Four Centuries of Table Settings*. We propose **Wednesday, January 27 at 11:15 a.m.** to view these and spend a day with fashion and food! Look for more details in the December issue.

Random Bits of Tokyo

by Melissa White

When I neared the end of my fourth week of living in Tokyo with still two more weeks to go, I started thinking about how to share my adventures. Somehow trying to write just one article didn't seem like it would allow me to express what it was like to live in and explore this fascinating part of the world. Thus, I decided to split my experiences into two separate articles, one on aspects of living in Tokyo temporarily as opposed to the one on exploring Tokyo as a tourist that hopefully you read in the October issue. However, when I finally sat still long enough to start writing this article, I found it wasn't flowing. After much pondering, I decided to do what I best like to do: ramble.

A Little Background on Tokyo

Frankly, there's not much little about Tokyo. It's a huge city; its extended municipality has the highest population in the world

with over 35 million inhabitants. Formerly known as Edo, it was renamed Tokyo in 1868 when Emperor Meiji moved the capital from Kyoto. Tokyo suffered two devastating catastrophes in the 20th century. The Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 caused massive damage and over 100,000 deaths in Tokyo and nearby Yokohama. Just 22 years later, the allied air raids of World War II destroyed half the city and killed 110,000 civilians. Out of the ashes, Tokyo rose into a modern metropolis in time to host the 1964 Olympics. Much like the Netherlands, land reclamation projects have been going on for centuries. In 2020, Tokyo will become the first Asian city to host the Olympics twice.

Roppongi

We stayed in an apartment in Roppongi, which literally means "six trees." Due to its proximity to the Imperial Palace, this area housed US military and government



officials after WWII, leading restaurants and bars to cater to western tastes. Its music scene boomed over the decades as popular nightclubs attracted large crowds; it also attracted the Yakuza, members of organized crime, which caused its reputation to fall. The Yakuza have since moved on, but Roppongi still hasn't fully recovered from its negative image. Despite receiving several warnings about the area from friends that had either lived in Tokyo or spent significant time there, I felt very safe. Apparently the sidewalks are more crowded at 3 a.m. then they are the rest of the day, but I wouldn't know, as I was never out that late. It was strange

seeing signs warning the hawkers working for nightclubs that they are not allowed to harass passersby; apparently some of these fellows can get a bit aggressive when trying to entice folks into their establishments.

Grocery Shopping

I spent much of my first few days while Ashlynn was at work (which is a weird thing to write about my 15-year-old) in hunter-gatherer mode (technically much more of a gatherer than a hunter) as I went in search of groceries to stock our refrigerator with breakfast items and snack foods. Ashlynn worried that I wasn't getting out enough, but she failed to understand that exploring grocery stores was a form of sightseeing rather than a chore. I knew to expect high prices for fruits and vegetables, but still had complete sticker shock when I saw individually wrapped peaches for € 3.00; they made the apples look like a bargain at just € 2.20 each. There were three grocery stores within easy walking distance of our apartment, all with very different atmospheres that I came to know quite well. One was a typical corner store in a big city with a small but decent selection. Another was an incredible >> 48



Tokyo (cont.)

Continued from page 47

gourmet shop that was open 24/7 where I often purchased octopus salad or sushi for lunch or dinner for myself if Ashlynn was working. The last was one floor of a six-floor mega shop that sold everything from fishing gear to costumes. I also visited a large shop that just sold snacks; I'd never seen such an assortment of snacks in my life and a visit there was guaranteed to take a while as I attempted to ensure I wasn't accidentally buying something fishy instead of sweet by using Google Translate (if you haven't tried this app while travelling, you should as it's a lifesaver—we might still be lost in the woods outside of Tokyo if it weren't for Google Translate).

Dining Out

Ashlynn's work schedule varied greatly, but most days we managed to eat at least one meal out together. I had expected that restaurant prices would be astronomical considering we were in one of the world's most expensive cities, so I was pleasantly surprised to find a large assortment of affordable restaurants to choose from. After eating fish the first two days of our stay, Ashlynn declared herself a full vegetarian as she didn't want to help support the practices of the Japanese fishing industry which she opposes. Considering sushi had been her favorite food before our arrival, this came as a bit of a shock to me. Thanks to some handy apps for finding vegetarian and vegetarian-friendly restaurants, including sushi places, we managed.



Prior to our trip, our exposure to Japanese food had been mostly limited to *teriyaki* chicken or salmon, sushi, *tempura*, *yakisoba* noodles, or *udon* noodle soup. We had a great time trying a lot of different styles of food. We especially loved *okonomi-yaki*, savory pancakes made out of cabbage and egg (mine also included scallops) that we cooked on a grill at our table. We never had the patience to stand in the long lines during the worst heat of summer, but we did finally go to a small café that specialized in *kakigori*, a shaved ice dessert flavored with a syrup (we chose mango) and a sweetener, often condensed milk. I also tried *takoyaki*, battered octopus balls that are cooked in a special pan that's similar to a Dutch *poffertje* pan.

I'm normally not a tea drinker, but I tried some made from matcha, the finely ground powder of a specially grown green tea, and liked it. In fact, we went a bit crazy and tried as many items flavored with matcha as we could, including: Kit Kats, Oreos, pretzels, noodles, bagels and ice cream. I even had a matcha beer and a matcha mojito. I also ate a lot of snacks covered in seaweed including rice balls, fortune cookies and crackers.

We noticed that one of the traditional restaurants on our street had Japanese omelets on the menu which Ashlynn had wanted to try, so we went there for dinner one night. It was very nice inside and the service was



fantastic (it did help that our waiter spoke great English, which was a rarity). When I ordered the seafood mix, he said that many foreigners find the pickled fish not to their liking. I figured that I like pickled herring, so I'd try it anyway. To my surprise, the bowl of fish had a raw egg on top, which he'd failed to mention. As the fish was cold, the egg obviously stayed raw. The concoction was served with seaweed, but no rice. While I definitely would never order this again, it didn't stop us from having a great dining experience.



Toilets

Much to Ashlynn's disapproval, I find it's impossible to write about Japan and not mention the toilets as they were so fascinating. In many public places, the restrooms were spotless (including in most train stations!) and the western toilets had sophisticated control panels with a variety of buttons; although I never experimented with all the options, I do know that the button with an image of a musical note will play the sound of rushing water in order to block out any "embarrassing" sounds you might make. Even in our somewhat shabby apartment, we had a toilet that automatically warmed the seat and had several different spray options. The most unusual aspect of our toilet, however, was the top which had an integrated faucet. Honestly, I'd never considered using toilet water to wash my hands before. After I got over how gross that seemed, I realized that it actually made sense that some of the tank's clean water went to the bowl while some went to the top. I only saw one other toilet like this during our journeys, so I guess it's not commonly used.

In one place I saw a clever family set-up: a regular toilet for the mom, a urinal for a young boy and a seat for the baby all within a single stall. I also saw a fancy electronic map on the wall at one train station that not only specified which stalls were available, but which had western toilets versus Japanese traditional toilets. In the giant electronics store, you couldn't buy a toilet but there was an entire department dedicated to the large variety of fancy mechanisms that you can add to your existing toilet.

If you ever get the chance to visit Tokyo, I highly recommend that you venture beyond the tourist sights. Do a little bit of shopping, use the excellent public transportation, and find some small local Japanese restaurants to dine in. It will make your experience truly memorable. On that note, I've rambled on long enough. I'm thankful to have shared this amazing journey with my daughter. It was definitely a trip we'll always remember!

Making the Difference

by Georgia Regnault

Besides cabin personnel on an airplane, the first Dutch person you probably met as a new resident to the Netherlands was the man or woman asking for your passport at Schiphol Airport or at another border entering the country. Perhaps unbeknownst to you, he was part of the *Koninklijke Marechaussee* (Royal Netherlands Military Police).

Who was he/she? What is his or her training? Does he/she have other functions as well? To answer these questions, I recently attended an excursion to the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee headquarters on the van Alkemadelaan in The Hague. After a warm welcome by the Commander of the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, Lieutenant General Dr. Hans Leijtens, we heard an in-depth presentation on the work of the *Koninklijke Marechaussee* by Colonel Mr. Marty Th.J. Messerschmidt. He began by explaining the profile of the organization: it is a military-driven organization under the Defense Department, but is also a police organization with military status that engages in national and worldwide deployment, especially in difficult circumstances.

Having been founded in 1814, they celebrated their bicentenary anniversary last year. Some highlights of their history: in 1908, they began the security detail at the royal palaces, and in 1919, the Police

Troops Corps was established for law enforcement and demobilization. It wasn't until 1954 that this corps was given the border control task, and only in 1994 that they took over the police and security tasks at all Dutch airports. And finally, it became an independent service within the Netherlands Armed Forces in 1998.

Unfortunately in today's society, security and surveillance has been forced into a very important position and, so in turn, the duties of *Koninklijke Marechaussee* have been increased and expanded to meet this need. Colonel Messerschmidt talked about the cooperation that has been established within the country with Customs, the National Police Force, Repatriation and Departure Service, Coastguard, and Immigration and Naturalization Service (a department expats knows quite well!) On the European front, they work together with European Gendarmerie Force, Frontex, the Bundespolizei and a cross-border police team.

The core values of the *Koninklijke Marechaussee* are very clear: robust and energetic, reliable, flexible, and the interoperability of systems. Colonel Messerschmidt surely showed our group that the 6,000 members of this organization (10% of whom are women) live and work by these core values.



Message from the President (cont.)

Continued from page 8

to Melissa and Teresa. When you use the services of our advertisers, please remember to tell them you saw their ad in *Going Dutch*!

At a previous Thanksgiving Day Service, one of the pastors reminded us that as children we were taught to say *thank you*. He reminded us of the times when our parents and teachers had to prompt us to say *thank you*. He said that Thanksgiving is a reminder for us as adults to say *thank you*. So this month, I say *thank you* to each Member of

the American Women's Club of The Hague, for being part of this Club that means so much to me, for giving of yourselves, for welcoming me and others into our Dutch life. *Dank u wel, danken jullie wel.*

With deep appreciation,

Becky



Strength and hope for friends and families of problem drinkers

**ARE YOU TROUBLED BY
SOMEONE ELSE'S DRINKING?**

Attending Al-Anon Meetings Can Help

Contact Al-Anon Netherlands: 06 4864 4690

Christine: 061 879 4671
Julie: 065 469 7840
Miresa: 064 035 4348

alanon-netherlands.org
alanon-netherlands.org/meetings-list/

AWC is a Pet-Free Zone

As much as many of our Members love their pets, please do leave them at home as the AWC has a long-standing policy of no pets in the Clubhouse. Thank you for your understanding!

NO PETS ALLOWED

Member Privacy

Please be reminded that the AWC Membership List is for AWC Member reference only and use of this information in any communication other than AWC official business is strictly prohibited. Members may not share the list with anyone other than another AWC Member in good standing and never to any third party.

The AWC takes care to protect Member information and adherence to this policy is critical to maintain Member privacy. Members are asked to report suspected misuse of the list to any AWC Board Member.

Classifieds

Counselling International

For professional, confidential individual counselling or coaching, relationship/couple therapy or conflict mediation. Experienced, multilingual professional Els Barkema-Sala, MPhil, MBACP. Contact 071 528 2661 for FREE initial telephone consultation or for an appointment. www.counsellinginternational.com

Here's Holland

by AWC Honorary Member **Sheila Gazaleh-Weevers**
The "must have: guide to the good life and to living in Holland. Packed with information, tips for trips, contact addresses and invaluable advice for newcomers as well as "old hands" and their visitors. Available from bookshops, also AWC Front Office at discounted price.

Commission a Portrait of Your Home

Watercolor "house portraits" and paintings of Holland by American artist Albert Dolmans make ideal pre-leaving gifts for friends, mementos for "the man who has everything," or simply for yourself. References and samples available, many from AWC Members. Prices from € 550
Contact: sgazaleh@gmail.com or call 010 422 9511

Gold and Silversmith:

Bijoux-Dor
Tailormade tasks and repairs
Christmas gifts @ 20% discount
www.bijoux-dor.com
Noordeinde 47, The Hague
Phone: 068.759.8566

North Sea Chiropractic for All Your Spinal Health Needs

Chiropractic care for your whole family, specializing in general pain, pregnancy, pediatrics, sports injuries and more. The chiropractor is an AWC Member and American graduate. Most insurances cover chiropractic. Call for a free 15-minute consultation: 065 369 7739
chiropractienoordzee@gmail.com
www.chiropractienoordzee.nl

Support Fellow AWC Members

Find links to a large variety of businesses owned by AWC Members at www.awcthehague.org/site/newcomers/business-links

The AWC is not responsible for accidents or injuries occurring at Club activities or on Club property. Sports and exercise instructors must carry their own liability insurance.

Notice to Members Regarding eNews Distribution

A weekly electronic newsletter is sent to all AWC Members via GroupSpaces.com. If you have not been receiving your eNews, please contact Lynn at awcthehague.membership@gmail.com.



Index of Advertisers

ACCESS page 30	Bulthaup Zoetermeer page 13	Kimmel & Co Makelaars kantoor Inside cover	The Wall Renovations page 15
American Travel Center page 19	FRITSTAXI Airport Service page 25	Marcel Vermeulen Jewelry page 11	Wassalon Weissenbruch page 30
Aveda Lifestyle Salon Inside Cover	Intraco Inside cover	Petros Eyewear page 11	Your Cleaning Service page 30
The British School in the Netherlands Back Cover	Happy Critters page 39	St. James Church page 35	

Going Dutch is Available Online

Go to www.awcthehague.org to share the current month's issue with friends and family. You will also find links to our annual advertisers, whose support makes this magazine possible. If you visit or contact one of our advertisers, let them know *Going Dutch* sent you!

Rates

Classified Mini-Ads:

Deadline: In general, the 1st of the month prior to the month in which your ad will appear, although subject to change due to holiday schedule.

AWC Member Rates:

	For 45 Words	For 25 Additional Words
Per Issue	€ 10	€ 5
Eight Issues	€ 70	€ 30

Non-Member Rates:

	For 45 Words	For 25 Additional Words
Per Issue	€ 15	€ 8
Eight Issues	€ 110	€ 55

How to Submit Your Ad:

Email your ad to: goingdutchads@gmail.com

Payment Information:

Please indicate the name of your ad on your payment so that we are able to match up your payment with your ad.

By Bank Transfer:

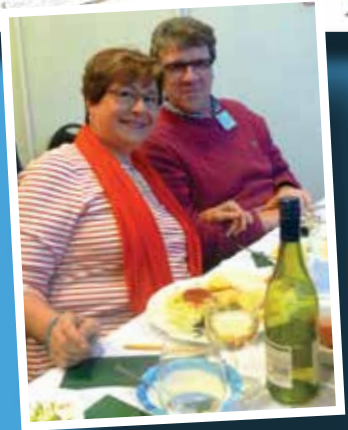
ABN-AMRO
43.14.21.757
IBAN: NL42ABNA0431421757

Display Ads:

For full, half, third or quarter page commercial display ads, email our magazine staff at goingdutchads@gmail.com



Quiz Night



Creating a comfortable Home



Design lighting
Outdoor lighting
Electrical engineering
Central heating
24 hours service

Security installation
Intercom installation
Camera installation
Internet
House automation



De Ruyterstraat 10, 2266 KT Leidschendam
Telephone 070-3833869 Email: intraco-nl@xs4all.nl
Website: intraco-nl.nl



Wassenaarseweg 31
2596 CE The Hague

sales
+31 (0)70 3 249 249

rentals
+31 (0)70 3 262 726

management
+31 (0)70 3 245 307

e-mail
info@kimmel.nl
internet
www.kimmel.nl

KIMMEL&CO
MAKELAARSKANTOOR



Onno de With – RMT
directie



Marianne de Bruijn
directie – Kimmel Rentals



FOR YOUR HOME • SALES • RENTALS



The
**British
School**
in The Netherlands

Internationally Curious

Nurturing every child's natural desire to investigate, question and inquire - developing it into a skill that will help them thrive anywhere in the world.

www.britishschool.nl



Internationally British